

**ARIZONA VETERANS' SERVICE ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**4141 N. Third Street- Phoenix AZ 85012**  
**Thursday - December 13, 2007**

**M I N U T E S**

**Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Dingwall.

**Present**

Advisory Commissioners

Tom Dingwall, Chairman  
Kenneth Yamanouchi, Vice Chairman  
Webb Ellis  
Gary Fredricks  
Linda Fulkerson  
Tom Heaney  
Bill Lunsford  
Larry McKim  
Phillip Quochytewa

Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

Gregg Maxon, Director  
Mike Klier, Deputy Director  
Lee Borgen, Vets' Benefit Counselor

**Guests**

Harry Lyons, Regional President, Fleet Reserve Association  
Diane D'Angelo,

Opening – Chairman Dingwall welcomed Harry Lyons and Diane D'Angelo who were in attendance. Vice Chair Yamanouchi made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2007 meeting as published; the motion was seconded and carried.

Correspondence Sent and Received – Three letters from Chairman Dingwall thanked participants in the November 3, 2007 meeting. The Commissioners were invited to attend a November 9, 2007 ceremony hosted by Chaplain Danny Thompson. An email was received that verified that all flags flown over the capitol were made in the USA. A letter from Gary Fredricks, Chairman for the Unified Arizona Veterans (UAV) was made available to the Commission; the letter deals with the state budget and was addressed to Governor Napolitano, Speaker of the House, and President of the Senate.

Director's Report – Director Maxon

Director Maxon reported the following:

- Armed Forces Memorial Park in Yuma was 60% completed and that he and Mr. Klier would be traveling to Yuma on December 17<sup>th</sup> to present a check to the Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee in Yuma.
- The National Cemetery has exceeded its monetary goal for building a carillon and will be donating the excess to the carillon project in Southern Arizona. Southern Arizona Memorial Cemetery has to date raised \$3,200 and is expected to be

completed in 2009. Commissioner Fredericks suggested the UAV attend the January meeting to discuss the carillon project.

- The Troops to Teachers program has been transferred to Arizona Department of Veterans Services from the Department of Education and is operating out of the Maricopa County Workforce Connections' One Stop in Avondale.
- Helmets to Hardhats, which is managed by the Department of Commerce, helps personnel returning from active duty to transition into the construction trades. AZDVS will be in charge of certifying the apprenticeship programs.
- AZDVS is working to establishing a program regarding veteran owned businesses. The object of the project is to set up connections for the veterans with funding from state and federal agencies, training on running a small business, and registration of claims with the Veterans Administration. Service connected disabled veterans are entitled to additional benefits.
- Silvestre Herrera was honored at a funeral at Resthaven Park Cemetery on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December.
- The National Cemetery will be hosting Wreaths Across America the weekend of December 15<sup>th</sup>.
- License Plates:
  - Senator Waring and the Gold Star Wives of America requested that AZDVS use the donation fund to design a new license plate for the Gold Star Wives. Director Maxon noted the large number of specialty license plates in Arizona and the many requests for various license plates for the veteran community. He suggested that it may be time to consider developing a decal program to allow veterans plates to be "personalized" as to branch of service, era of service, etc.
  - Mr. Klier gave an update on the Veterans license plate. Both plates have grossed 2 million dollars to date and the Freedom plate averages a gross of \$20,000 monthly.
  - State employees will receive a Freedom plate advertisement in their paycheck.
- In February, the Auto Trader will sponsor the Salute to Vets 100 at the Pinal County Raceway. There will be free spaces for Veteran Service Organization and Veteran Benefit Counselors to set up booths. A flyover is also being arranged.
- Bullhead City and AZDVS have signed a Memorandum of Understanding regarding office space for VBC's.
- January 26 the VBC's will participate in the "Marine Corp Muster" sponsored by the Commanding General, Marine Corp Mobilization Command.

#### Region 4 Meeting Action Items (Lake Havasu City) -

Commissioner Fulkerson said the Region 4 meeting went well and thanked Lee Borgen for all her help. Albert Long inquired about art work he donated to AZDVS. He wanted to know the status for displaying the items. They are currently being stored in a controlled climate storage environment. Commissioner Yamanouchi suggested a letter be sent to Mr. Long concerning an update. Director Maxon said AZDVS will a send the update letter. There were complaints regarding the quality of care in Prescott VA Medical Center vs. Las Vegas VA Medical Center. Veterans will not receive travel reimbursed if they decide to go to Las Vegas instead of Prescott. Chairman Dingwall requested the contact information for the

Director of the VA Medical Center in Prescott to ensure a knowledgeable representative would attend the April meeting.

Open Meeting Law Overview - Jeff Dollins, Assistant Attorney General, explained in detail the requirement for Open Law Meetings. A handout concerning Open Meeting Law was made available to the Commissioners.

State Veteran Home to be Built in Tucson -Chairman Dingwall postponed this discussion until the January meeting.

Arizona Veterans Research Council – Director Maxon presented the draft final report for the Veterans' Research Council. The report projects trends in veteran migration, deaths, female population, rural population and homelessness.

Proposed Changes to the ASVH Rules for Admission to the Home - Gabe Forsberg, Plans & Development Manager, provided a copy of the two minor changes to the rules that are being proposed. A meeting with the Governor's Regulatory Review Council is scheduled for December 14 to meet with the analyst who will be working with the agency on the rules.

Commission's Strategic Plan – Possible Revision - Chairman Dingwall postponed discussion until February.

Public Comments-Commissioner Heaney introduced Harry Lyons. Mr. Lyons is the regional president of the Fleet Reserve Association and he gave background on the FRA. Gabe Forsberg introduced Diane D'Angelo. She gave a brief overview of her background.

Recommendation to the Governor on Budget Considerations for the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services – All commissioners received Commissioner Fredricks' letter as chairman of the UAV to Governor regarding the state budget. Vice Chairman Yamanouchi requested a budget status report from Director Maxon.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m. by acclamation. The next regular meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on January 12, 2008 at Elks Lodge BPOE, 1 Elks Way, Sierra Vista, Arizona 85635.